

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 51 | Annual Issue

Article 53

1945

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Recommended Citation

King, Robert L. (1945) "Summer Birds of the Okoboji Region 1938-1942," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*: Vol. 51: No. 1 , Article 53.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol51/iss1/53>

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SUMMER BIRDS OF THE OKOBOJI REGION 1938-1942

ROBERT L. KING

During the summers of 1938 to 1942 inclusive the writer was in charge of the course in Field Biology at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on Lake West Okoboji. The first two or three weeks of the course were spent in studying the breeding habits of the birds of the region; this was supplemented by much informal work during the rest of the season. The dates covered are approximately the last three weeks of June, all July and the first three weeks of August. In 1938, 72 species of birds were recorded and nests of 33 species were observed; in 1939, 70 species and 33 nests; in 1940, 103 species and 37 nests; in 1941, 87 species and 30 nests; and in 1942, 94 species and 28 nests. The banner year coincided with the presence of Professor S. C. Kendeigh of the University of Illinois who was in residence during the summer of 1940. In all, 119 species of birds were recorded and nests of 60 species observed. The greatest number of nests of any one species was 20 for the yellow warbler in 1938, 28 for the same species in 1939 and 34 in 1940. During the first two years, Mr. F. G. Schrantz was engaged in a study of the growth rate of the yellow warbler.

A great many students have aided in the collection of data for this list. Among these were L. M. Hardin, J. B. Jackson, J. G. Johnson, O. C. Johnson, Jean Laffoon, Malcolm McDonald, A. V. Regnier, R. M. Sallee and J. H. Schutss. Mrs. Ann Anderson and Mrs. Frances Jahn were also enthusiastically helpful.

To the 119 species recorded by the group have been added the 19 species listed by Stephens (38) which were not observed by us. These are in parentheses and are included so that the list may be more generally useful. Certain conventions are used: for instance, under item 13—Blue-winged Teal 5, 3+1. This means that the bird was seen in all five years, that nests were found in three of the five years and that juvenals were observed in one of the years when nests were not found. Other records of nests have been added from Bailey (18), Du Mont (34) and Stephens (38) so that we have nesting records for 77 species and in addition records of juvenals for 8 other species. Common names of species have been used and in some instances no sub-specific names have been distinguished.

1. Loon 2, 0. A pair of loons made a long visit to West Okoboji during the latter part of July and the first two weeks of August, 1942. Stephens reported juvenals present in 1921.
2. Pied-billed Grebe 5, 5
- (3. Double-crested Cormorant)
4. Great Blue Heron 5, 0
5. Eastern Green Heron 5, 3
6. Black-crowned Night Heron 5, 1+1

7. American Bittern 5, 1+1
8. Eastern Least Bittern 5, 2
9. Common Mallard 5, 2+2
10. Gadwall 1, 0
11. Baldpate 1, 0
12. American Pintail 5, 0+1. Breeding record for Dickinson County in DuMont.
13. Blue-winged Teal 5, 3+1
14. Cinnamon Teal 1, 0. A pair seen June 21, 1942 in Grover Lake.
15. Shoveller 2, 0. Nests recorded from Palo Alto County in DuMont.
16. Wood Duck 1, 0
17. Redhead 4, 2
18. Ring-necked Duck 1, 0
19. Lesser Scaup Duck 3, 0
20. Ruddy Duck 5, 4
21. Hooded Merganser 2, 0
22. Turkey Vulture 1, 0. Nesting record for Dickinson County in Bailey.
23. Cooper's Hawk 1, 0. Nests recorded in Stephens.
24. Red-tailed Hawk 2, 0
25. Marsh Hawk 4, 0. A nest was found on the Laboratory property in 1935.
26. Osprey 1, 0. Seen by Jean Laffoon June 17, 1941 on Little Miller's Bay.
27. Eastern Sparrow Hawk 5, 3. The sparrow hawks nested in the laboratory buildings in 1939, 1940, and in 1942. There is evidence that they nested there also in 1943.
- (28. Prairie Chicken)
29. European Partridge 5, 1
30. Eastern Bob-white 1, 0
31. Ring-necked Pheasant 5, 5
32. King Rail 2, 0
33. Virginia Rail 2, 1
34. Sora Rail 2, 1
35. Florida Gallinule 5, 3+1
36. American Coot 5, 5
- (37. Semipalmated Plover)
38. Killdeer 5, 1
- (39. Golden Plover)
- (40. Long-billed Curlew)
41. American Woodcock 1, 0. J. B. Jackson found and demonstrated a single individual of this species on the laboratory grounds in 1937. An earlier specimen was reported as having been killed (in light wires?) on the golf course in 1932 by Professor P. L. Risley.
42. Upland Plover 4, 0
43. Spotted Sandpiper 5, 3
44. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper 2, 0
- (45. Western Willet)

46. Lesser Yellowlegs 3, 0
47. Pectoral Sandpiper 1, 0
- (48. Least Sandpiper)
- (49. Eastern Dowitcher)
50. Stilt Sandpiper 1, 0
51. Semipalmated Sandpiper 2, 0
- (52. Marbled Godwit)
- (53. Wilson's Phalarope)
54. Herring Gull 1, 0
55. Ring-billed Gull 3, 0
56. Franklin's Gull 5, 0
57. Forster's Tern 5, 3. Nests found in 1940 in Mud and Round Lakes. In 1941 and 1942 in Grover Lake.
58. Black Tern 5, 5
59. Western Mourning Dove 5, 5
60. Yellow-billed Cuckoo 5, 1
61. Black-billed Cuckoo 5, 2
62. Barn Owl 1, 0
63. Screech Owl 4, 0+2
64. Great Horned Owl 3, 0+1
65. Western Burrowing Owl 2, 0. Young reported by Stephens.
66. Short-eared Owl 2, 0. Nest reported by Stephens.
67. Nighthawk 4, 0
68. Chimney Swift 5, 2
69. Ruby-throated Hummingbird 4, 0
70. Eastern Belted Kingfisher 5, 0. Nests have been excavated by classes at the Laboratory in previous years.
71. Northern Flicker 5, 2+1
72. Red-headed Woodpecker 5, 3
73. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker 5, 0
74. Northern Downy Woodpecker 5, 0
75. Eastern Kingbird 5, 4
76. Arkansas Kingbird 4, 0+1. Nest reported in Stephens.
77. Northern Crested Flycatcher 4, 0. Nest reported in Stephens.
78. Eastern Phoebe 2, 0. Nests reported in Stephens.
79. Alder Flycatcher 3, 1
80. Least Flycatcher 1, 0. Nest reported in Stephens.
81. Eastern Wood Pewee 5, 2
82. Prairie Horned Lark 4, 0
83. Tree Swallow 2, 0. Nest reported in Stephens.
84. Bank Swallow 5, 3
85. Rough-winged Swallow 3, 0. Nests reported in Stephens.
86. Barn Swallow 5, 5
87. Northern Cliff Swallow 2, 1
88. Purple Martin 5, 2+3
89. Northern Blue Jay 5, 2+1
90. Eastern Crow 5, 2
91. Black-capped Chickadee 5, 0+2
- (92. Tufted Titmouse)
93. White-breasted Nuthatch 4, 0+1

94. Western House Wren, 5, 5
95. Prairie Marsh Wren 5, 4
96. Short-billed Marsh Wren 3, 0
97. Catbird 5, 5
98. Brown Thrasher 5, 5
99. Eastern Robin 5, 5
100. Wood Thrush 1, 0
101. Eastern Bluebird 5, 1+1
- (102. Cedar Waxwing)
103. Migrant Shrike 5, 0+2
104. Starling 4, 2
105. Yellow-throated Vireo 2, 1
106. Red-eyed Vireo 5, 2
107. Eastern Warbling Vireo 1, 0
- (108. Black and White Warbler)
- (109. Prothonotary Warbler). Nest reported in Stephens.
110. Eastern Yellow Warbler 5, 5
- (111. Grinnell's Water Thrush)
112. Northern Yellow-throat 5, 3
- (113. Wilson's Warbler)
- (114. Redstart)
115. English Sparrow 5, 5
116. Bobolink 5, 2
117. Western Meadowlark 5, 5
118. Yellow-headed Blackbird 5, 5
119. Red-winged Blackbird 5, 5
120. Orchard Oriole 5, 0+1
121. Baltimore Oriole 5, 2
122. Bronzed Grackle 5, 2
123. Cowbird 5, 4
124. Scarlet Tanager 2, 0. Nest reported in Stephens.
125. Rose-breasted Grosbeak 5, 2+3
126. Indigo Bunting 4, 0. Nest reported in Stephens.
127. Dickcissel 5, 2
128. Eastern Goldfinch 5, 2
- (129. Red-eyed Towhee)
130. Eastern Savannah Sparrow 1, 0. Nest reported in DuMont.
131. Grasshopper Sparrow 4, 1
132. Eastern Vesper Sparrow 5, 0
- (133. Lark Sparrow)
134. Slate-colored Junco 1, 0. A single specimen was seen on the Laboratory grounds by many observers on dates between July 6, 1942 and August 23, 1942.
135. Eastern Chipping Sparrow 1, 0
136. Eastern Field Sparrow 3, 1
137. Swamp Sparrow 5, 2
138. Song Sparrow 5, 1

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